# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:759
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
AFFORESTATION PROGRAMMES
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to convert one- third land of the country into forest land in order to maintain the ecological balance ;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose and acres of land available in the country for afforestation, State-wise ;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite voluntary and Non- Governmental Organizations for afforestation programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRINAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not formulated any specific scheme to convert one-third land of the country into forest land. However, the Ministry has launched National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. Degraded forests, scrubs and blanks are considered appropriate for afforestation subject to local ecological requirements. State-wise estimates of wastelands as per the Wastelands Atlas of India 2000 of the National Remote Sensing Agency are given in the Annexure.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme also whereunder financial assistance is provided to various agencies, including Non-Government Organizations and Voluntary Agencies for tree planting.